

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 149

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Crystal Sorrells on being named the 2021 Hamilton County Principal of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those outstanding citizens who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education and learning environments for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Crystal Sorrells is one such estimable individual, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the principal at East Ridge High School (ERHS), Ms. Sorrells was recently named the 2021 Hamilton County Principal of the Year, a most befitting honor for her tenure as principal, as it recognizes the positive influence she has on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, immediately prior to taking the helm at ERHS, Principal Sorrells served as the principal at Tyner Middle Academy for four years, during which time she led the school to back-to-back Level 5 designations from the State for student academic growth; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sorrells came to Hamilton County Schools in 2009 as an assistant principal in charge of the ninth-grade Success Academy at Brainerd High School, which was her alma mater and where her father taught for many years; in 2011, she transferred to Orchard Knob Middle School, serving as principal there until transitioning into leadership at Tyner Middle Academy; and

WHEREAS, her more than twenty years of experience in education includes time in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she was an elementary and middle school assistant principal and taught middle school mathematics; and

WHEREAS, Crystal Sorrells holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and a master's degree in school administration from Gardner Webb University; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sorrells graduated with the first cohort from Principal Leadership Academy, sponsored by Hamilton County Schools, the Public Education Foundation, the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, she was trained by the Southern Regional Education Board in Creating a High-Performance Learning Culture and in the Tennessee Turnaround Principals Cohort, and she has facilitated professional development for schools and districts in the areas of classroom behavior management, instructional best practices, performance appraisal instruments, and school climate and culture; and

WHEREAS, Crystal Sorrells is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator who has worked assiduously throughout her career in education to motivate her students, teachers, and staff to reach their full potential as scholars, professionals, and citizens; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sorrells truly serves as an inspiration to the faculty and staff at East Ridge High School, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Sorrells epitomizes the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Crystal Sorrells upon being named the 2021 Hamilton County Principal of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the students and

schools of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.